

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that the drawings filing on June 26, 2003 are accepted.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 are independent. Claims 2, 10, 15, and 17 are canceled in this reply. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, 16, and 24.

**Claim Amendments**

Independent claims 1, 9, and 16 are amended to include subject matter from dependent claims 2, 10, and 17, respectively. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 are amended to include limitations directed to a policy definition that governs access to a resource. Specifically, the amended independent claims state that a request to access a resource is intercepted, the resource is located within a hierarchical structure, and the resource is associated with a policy definition that includes a rule, a condition, a subject, and a referral. Applicant asserts that no new subject matter is added by way of these amendments as support for these claim amendments may be found, for example, on pages 8-11 and 15-16 of the Specification.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), “the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” *See* MPEP §2143.03. Further, “all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” *See* MPEP § 2143.03.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0186238 (“Sylor”) in view of European Patent Application EP1009130A1 (“Brun”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert that the references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16. Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, *intercepting* a request identifying a resource; and traversing said hierarchical organization to locate said resource, wherein said resource is subject to *a policy definition* governing access to said resource, wherein the policy definition comprises: *a rule* that references said resource and comprises at least one action associated with the resource, *a condition* that comprises a constraint on the at least one action, *a subject* that defines a collection of users to whom the policy definition applies, and *a referral* that comprises an identification of a second policy decision point to which the evaluation of the policy definition is being delegated. Amended independent claims 9 and 16 recite similar limitations.

Sylor is directed to displaying the *status* of networked resources. *See* Sylor, Abstract. The system of Sylor presents the user with a GUI that includes a visual hierarchy of resources, communicates with a web server to *access status information* of the resources, and communicates with analysis tools to enable drilldown lists for resource profiles. *See* Sylor, paragraph [0161]. While Sylor may disclose receiving requests related to the resources in the GUI from a user, Sylor does not teach or suggest *intercepting* a request identifying *a resource*. The plain meaning of “intercepting” is “to interrupt the progress or intended course of.” *See, e.g., The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*, as cited at <http://www.bartleby.com>. The requests made by a user in Sylor are intended to be received by the GUI, and thus are not *intercepted*.

Further, Sylor fails to teach or suggest a policy definition containing a rule, a subject, a condition, and a referral, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16. In fact, Sylor does not define any type of policy definition governing access to resources. Rather, Sylor is only concerned with providing users with the status and profiles of resources, and is completely silent as to how access to resources is permitted.

Further, Brun fails to supply that which Sylor lacks. Brun relates to locating a network resource in a packet switching network connected to subnetworks. Brun discloses *receiving* a query message comprising a resource name, where the resource name includes a prefix, and comparing the resource name prefix with prefixes stored in a database to determine whether the resource name relates to a resource that belongs to an access subnetwork. *See* Brun, col. 15, ll. 45-57. Although Brun organizes and locates resources, Brun fails to teach or suggest *intercepting* a request identifying a resource. As explained above, the plain meaning of “intercepting” is “to interrupt the progress or intended course of.” Brun merely receives a query message, which is not equivalent to intercepting the query message. *See* Brun, col. 8, ll. 41-43.

In addition, Brun fails to disclose or suggest a policy definition that includes the elements recited in amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16. For example, Brun is completely silent with respect to a condition that *constrains an action* to be performed on a resource, where the condition is included within a policy decision that determines whether access to a particular resource is permitted.

Moreover, Brun does not teach or suggest a referral included within a policy definition, where the referral indicates that the policy definition is to be evaluated by a second policy decision point. Brun merely discloses forwarding a query message to an adjacent access border node. *See* Brun, col. 8, ll. 54-57. Further, the query message in Brun is simply forwarded based on matching the resource name to a resource, not by locating within the query message

information that indicates where to forward the query message. *See* Brun, col. 8, ll. 54-57. Finally, a border node cannot be a policy decision point as the query message is not *evaluated* by the access border node in any way.

In view of the above, amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16 are clearly patentable over Saylor and Brun, whether considered separately or in combination. Further, dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 19, and 23 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 10, 17, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saylor, Brun, and further in view of US Publication No. 2004/0213258 (“Ramamoorthy”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Saylor and Brun fail to render the amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16 obvious. Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite subject matter similar to that of independent claims 1, 9, and 16. Therefore, independent claim 24 is patentable over Saylor and Brun for at least the same reasons described above. Further, Ramamoorthy fails to supply that which Saylor and Brun lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Ramamoorthy solely for the purpose of disclosing that resources are associated with access policies and that requestors are inherently checked for access privileges. (*See* Office Action mailed September 1, 2006, page 12.

Thus, Saylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy, whether considered separately or in combination, clearly fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 2, 10, and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor in view of Brun, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0128615 (“Carmel”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor and Brun fail to render amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Further, Carmel fails to supply that which Sylor and Brun lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Carmel solely for the purpose of disclosing indexing and querying documents, where context delimiters are used for both indexing and querying into documents, and for disclosing receiving information for wildcard pattern matching of resource names. *See* Office Action mailed September 1, 2006, page 13. Thus, Sylor, Brun, and Carmel, whether considered separately or in combination, clearly fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 25, and 26 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 14, 22, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor, Brun, and U.S. Patent No. 6,026,440 (“Shrader”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor and Brun fail to render amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Further, Shrader fails to supply that which Sylor and Brun lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Shrader solely for the purpose of disclosing receiving information indicating whether a resource name is case-sensitive. *See* Office Action mailed September 1, 2006, page 14.

Thus, Sylor, Brun, and Shrader, whether considered separately or in combination, clearly fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 7, 14, 22, and 27

are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor in view of Brun and further in view of Ramamoorthy and U.S. Patent No. 5,544,322 (“Cheng”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy fail to render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Further, Cheng fails to supply that which Sylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Cheng solely for the purpose of disclosing referring a request for access to a resource to another policy decision point. See Office Action mailed September 1, 2006, page 15. Further, Cheng fails to disclose or suggest a policy decision point that is capable of evaluating policy decisions regarding access to the resource. Rather, Cheng discloses that the policy decision is forwarded to a *database* (*i.e.*, which cannot make a determination regarding authentication for web server resources). See Cheng, col. 6, ll. 55-59. The database disclosed in Cheng basically processes an authentication announcement, but does not work for general web server resources that do not perform authentication announcements.

Thus, it is clear that Sylor, Brun, Ramamoorthy, and Cheng, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render independent claim 1 obvious. Dependent claim 28 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Referring to claim 29, the Examiner takes Official Notice that a cache for subsequent requests/processes is notoriously well known in the art. See Office Action mailed September 1, 2006, page 16. Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner did not provide evidence to support the position that cache policy decisions related to access control of resources is well

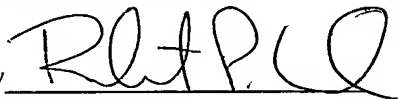
known in the art, as requested in the previously filed Request for Continued Examination. Thus, Applicants again request that the Examiner provide evidence to support this position either in the form of prior art or by providing a declaration of personal knowledge pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 (d)(2). Applicants respectfully assert that caching of such policy decisions, made by policy decision points for controlling access to resources is not well known in the art. Accordingly, favorable consideration of dependent claim 29 is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/497001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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